

went on to serve as the Director of the Federation's Business Development Office in the 70's; Director of the Federation's VISTA Project from 1977 to 1981; and as the Federation's National Field Director from 1981 until 1985 when he was promoted to the role of Executive Director, where he served with great distinction until his retirement in 2015.

During his 46-year tenure with the Federation, it flourished immensely and was instrumental in the creation of housing projects, community credit unions, cooperatives, and training programs for African-American farmers throughout the South. Ralph led the effort to file suit against the United States Department of Agriculture for discrimination in credit, conservation and rural development. Out of this effort, the Pigford I and Pigford II class action lawsuit cases were born. This paved the way for one of the largest discrimination law suits in the history of the United States and resulted in \$2.5 billion in payments to African American farm families. Furthermore, he also fought for settlements for Native American, Hispanic and Women Farmers who were also the victims of discrimination.

Ralph was a member of numerous local, state, and national boards to include: Nationwide Insurance Company, National Cooperative Business Association, Cooperative Development Foundation, Cooperative Business International, the President's (George Bush) Twenty First Century Agriculture Commission, and the Rural Policy Advisory Committee to President Barack Obama and many more. Among his acclamations were inductions into the George Washington Carver Public Service Hall of Fame and the Cooperative Hall of Fame; a Congressional Black Caucus Leadership Award; and a National Cooperative Business Association Co-op Month Leadership Award. Under Ralph's outstanding leadership, the Federation received several commendations including a Humanitarian Award from the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change and a United Nations Award for "significant contribution of adequate shelter to the poorer segments of the community."

Ralph accomplished much throughout his life, but it would not have been possible without his enduring faith in God and the love and support of his wife of 51 years, Bernice; his children, Bernard and Kenyatta; and the countless others who impacted his life over the years.

On a personal note, Ralph and the federation worked diligently to facilitate a business loan to establish my law firm in Columbus, Georgia. I represented the Federation as an Attorney and during my years as a member of the Georgia General Assembly, I worked with Ralph and the Federation to enhance and facilitate state resources for the work of the Federation and its Land Assistance Activities. As a member of Congress, serving on the House Agriculture Committee and the Subcommittee of the House Agriculture Appropriations Committee, I along with other Members of the Congressional Black Caucus collaborated with Ralph Paige, the Federation and other organizations to enhance the full participation of minority and disadvantaged farmers in the receipt of resources for Agriculture, Conservation and Rural Development from the United States Department of Agriculture.

The great agricultural chemist Dr. George Washington Carver once said, "No individual has any right to come into the world and go

out of it without leaving behind distinct and legitimate reasons for having passed through it." We are all so blessed that Ralph Paige passed this way and during his life's journey did so much for so many for so long. His leadership, his friendship, and his presence will be greatly missed.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Vivian and I, the 48 members of the Congressional Black Caucus, along with the more than 730,000 people of the Second Congressional District, extend our heartfelt condolences to Ralph's family and friends during this difficult time. May they be consoled and comforted by their abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OUTSTANDING CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2018

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the recipients of the Outstanding Corporate Citizenship Awards, presented by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce. These awards, presented annually, are given to individuals, businesses and non-profits in Northern Virginia that have demonstrated exceptional dedication to business leadership, employee engagement, and corporate social responsibility.

In Northern Virginia, we are blessed to have a strong tradition of civic engagement, which extends not only to our neighborhoods, but to our thriving business community as well. Efforts like the ones exhibited by the recipients of these awards are among the many reasons why Fairfax County remains one of the best places in the country in which to live, work, raise a family, and start a business.

It is my honor to include in the RECORD the names of the 2018 Outstanding Corporate Citizenship Awards:

Non-Profit of the Year—Cornerstones.

Public Sector of the Year—Fairfax County Office of Public Private Partnerships.

Emerging Leader of the Year—Stephen Gilotte, President & CEO, Reinventing Geospatial, Inc.

Executive Leader of the Year—Timothy Lyden—Partner, Northern Virginia—Hogan Lovells.

Small Business—ThunderCat Technology.

Mid-Size Business—Acumen Solutions.

Large Business—Accenture.

Mr. Speaker, as a former member and Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, I have seen firsthand how the partnership between our public, private, and non-profit sectors come together to improve the lives of innumerable members of our community and maintain our high quality of life. I thank the Northern Virginia Chamber for once again sponsoring these important awards and extend my congratulations to all of the award recipients. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking them for their service to our community and in wishing them great success in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE GENEROSITY OF AMERIGROUP GEORGIA AND THE GEORGIA MOUNTAIN FOOD BANK

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2018

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the generosity of Amerigroup Georgia and the Georgia Mountain Food Bank for their efforts to fight malnutrition through a customized food box program.

The food box program was started in 2016 by Georgia Mountain Food Bank and Good News Clinic to provide nutritious food boxes to food-insecure Northeast Georgians. Due to its success, the program began collaborating with the Long Street Clinic, through which it provided food boxes tailored to the needs of diabetics.

Through the faithful work of these organizations, North Georgians struggling with poverty and health challenges are getting the nutritional support they need. The recent receipt of grant money provided by Amerigroup Georgia, a health insurance and managed health care provider, will enable the Georgia Mountain Food Bank to reach more North Georgians in need.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Amerigroup Georgia and the Georgia Mountain Food Bank as they continue to forge local partnerships to serve members of our community.

HONORING SCOTT LINDBLOOM

HON. TOM O'HALLERAN

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2018

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Mr. Scott Lindbloom of Show Low, Arizona. Scott dedicates a significant part of his life to improving the lives of people like himself who have an intellectual or developmental disability. This week, the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities is honoring Scott for his work to empower people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. I would like to offer my congratulations to him.

I met Scott at the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council booth at "Show Low Days" in June 2017. We spoke about Scott's work to advocate for critical legislation to meet the needs of people with developmental disabilities in my district. Scott believes, as I do, that every person, regardless of ability, should be able to participate fully in their community.

Our initial meeting helped kickstart the Disability Advisory Council in my district, the aim of which is gathering information from my constituents about whether federal programs and proposed legislation meets the needs of rural Northern Arizona residents with disabilities. The group now meets quarterly in the Arizona White Mountains.

In addition to his participation in the Disability Advisory Council, Scott also volunteers at the Show Low Chamber of Commerce, where he has helped to create internships for